

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Personnel Code is amended by changing
5 Section 8b.7 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 415/8b.7) (from Ch. 127, par. 63b108b.7)

7 Sec. 8b.7. Veteran preference. For the granting of
8 appropriate preference in entrance examinations to qualified
9 veterans, persons who have been members of the armed forces of
10 the United States or to qualified persons who, while citizens
11 of the United States, were members of the armed forces of
12 allies of the United States in time of hostilities with a
13 foreign country, and to certain other persons as set forth in
14 this Section.

15 (a) As used in this Section:

16 (1) "Time of hostilities with a foreign country" means
17 any period of time in the past, present, or future during
18 which a declaration of war by the United States Congress
19 has been or is in effect or during which an emergency
20 condition has been or is in effect that is recognized by
21 the issuance of a Presidential proclamation or a
22 Presidential executive order and in which the armed forces
23 expeditionary medal or other campaign service medals are

1 awarded according to Presidential executive order.

2 (2) "Armed forces of the United States" means the
3 United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and
4 Coast Guard. Service in the Merchant Marine that
5 constitutes active duty under Section 401 of federal Public
6 Law 95-202 shall also be considered service in the Armed
7 Forces of the United States for purposes of this Section.

8 (3) "Veteran" means a member of the armed forces of the
9 United States, the Illinois National Guard, or a reserve
10 component of the armed forces of the United States.

11 (b) The preference granted under this Section shall be in
12 the form of points added to the final grades of the persons if
13 they otherwise qualify and are entitled to appear on the list
14 of those eligible for appointments.

15 (c) A veteran is qualified for a preference of 10 points if
16 the veteran currently holds proof of a service connected
17 disability from the United States Department of Veterans
18 Affairs or an allied country or if the veteran is a recipient
19 of the Purple Heart.

20 (d) A veteran who has served during a time of hostilities
21 with a foreign country is qualified for a preference of 5
22 points if the veteran served under one or more of the following
23 conditions:

24 (1) The veteran served a total of at least 6 months, or

25 (2) The veteran served for the duration of hostilities
26 regardless of the length of engagement, or

1 (3) The veteran was discharged on the basis of
2 hardship, or

3 (4) The veteran was released from active duty because
4 of a service connected disability and was discharged under
5 honorable conditions.

6 (e) A person not eligible for a preference under subsection
7 (c) or (d) is qualified for a preference of 3 points if the
8 person has served in the armed forces of the United States, the
9 Illinois National Guard, or any reserve component of the armed
10 forces of the United States if the person: (1) served for at
11 least 6 months and has been discharged under honorable
12 conditions; ~~or~~ (2) has been discharged on the ground of
13 hardship; ~~or~~ (3) was released from active duty because of a
14 service connected disability; or (4) served a minimum of 4
15 years in the Illinois National Guard or reserve component of
16 the armed forces of the United States regardless of whether or
17 not the person was mobilized to active duty. An active member
18 of the National Guard or a reserve component of the armed
19 forces of the United States is eligible for the preference if
20 the member meets the service requirements of this subsection
21 (e).

22 (f) The rank order of persons entitled to a preference on
23 eligible lists shall be determined on the basis of their
24 augmented ratings. When the Director establishes eligible
25 lists on the basis of category ratings such as "superior",
26 "excellent", "well-qualified", and "qualified", the veteran

1 eligibles in each such category shall be preferred for
2 appointment before the non-veteran eligibles in the same
3 category.

4 (g) Employees in positions covered by jurisdiction B who,
5 while in good standing, leave to engage in military service
6 during a period of hostility, shall be given credit for
7 seniority purposes for time served in the armed forces.

8 (h) A surviving unremarried spouse of a veteran who
9 suffered a service connected death or the spouse of a veteran
10 who suffered a service connected disability that prevents the
11 veteran from qualifying for civil service employment shall be
12 entitled to the same preference to which the veteran would have
13 been entitled under this Section.

14 (i) A preference shall also be given to the following
15 individuals: 10 points for one parent of an unmarried veteran
16 who suffered a service connected death or a service connected
17 disability that prevents the veteran from qualifying for civil
18 service employment. The first parent to receive a civil service
19 appointment shall be the parent entitled to the preference.

20 (j) The Department of Central Management Services shall
21 adopt rules and implement procedures to verify that any person
22 seeking a preference under this Section is entitled to the
23 preference. A person seeking a preference under this Section
24 shall provide documentation or execute any consents or other
25 documents required by the Department of Central Management
26 Services or any other State department or agency to enable the

1 department or agency to verify that the person is entitled to
2 the preference.

3 (k) If an applicant claims to be a veteran, the Department
4 of Central Management Services must verify that status before
5 granting a veteran preference by requiring a certified copy of
6 the applicant's most recent DD214 (Certificate of Release or
7 Discharge from Active Duty), NGB-22 (Proof of National Guard
8 Service), or other evidence of the applicant's most recent
9 honorable discharge from the Armed Forces of the United States
10 that is determined to be acceptable by the Department of
11 Central Management Services.

12 (Source: P.A. 90-655, eff. 7-30-98; 91-481, eff. 1-1-00.)

13 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
14 becoming law.